

South Africa city blacks win right to own their homes

PRETORIA. — Black urban leaders have won their first concession from the South African government as a result of discussions between blacks and whites which followed rioting in Johannesburg's huge Soweto black township.

Michael Botha, Minister of Bantu (African) Administration and Development, announced here on Saturday that blacks will now be able to buy or build their own homes in the townships — without first having to become citizens of the so-called "bantustans."

The nine "bantustans" — tribal homelands scattered about the eastern half of the Republic, are slated for a kind of autonomy by the Vorster government. But about more than half of the country's blacks live outside them — often in huge townships on the edge of white cities.

In May, 1976 the government announced that potential home-owners among urban blacks would first

have to take out citizenship in one of the homelands. This was bitterly opposed by urban blacks, who saw it as an attempt to ensure that black South Africans would be unable to become property owners in the Republic.

In his latest announcement, Mr. Botha said abrogation of the home-ownership restriction would go into effect in Soweto and in other townships around Johannesburg and Pretoria later this week.

Violence in black townships has left some 200 people dead since the first outbreak in Soweto two months ago.

The concession emerged from a series of meetings between a committee of 30 black community leaders from the townships and Government officials.

Meanwhile, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, leader of KwaZulu tribal homeland, said that violence would continue until the country's blacks are

recognized as equal citizens. In an interview in yesterday's "Johannesburg Sunday Times," Chief Buthelezi also condemned the wanton destruction of black schools during the past two months of rioting. He called for the establishment of local vigilante groups to protect black property in the townships.

In Dar es Salaam, meanwhile, a South African black nationalist leader predicted the failure of U.S. efforts to make South Africa change its system of apartheid.

Alfred Nzo, secretary-general of the African National Congress of South Africa commented on the U.S. moves in an interview in the "Tanzanian government newspaper," "The Sunday News." Asked if he could see any positive results from pressures exerted on South Africa by people like U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Nzo said "Not at all. Absolutely not."

(Reuters, UPI)

Manson gang hanger-on breaks jail

LOS ANGELES. — A woman described as a "fringe member" of the Charles Manson clan — notorious for the massacre in which actress Sharon Tate was killed — escaped along with another woman from the Terminal Island Federal Prison on Saturday night.

The woman, Susan Murphy, 34, was serving an up to five years prison sentence for sending threatening letters to business executives. She and the other prisoner overpowered a woman guard and fled in the guard's car, a prison spokesman said, after knocking the guard unconscious with a piece of pipe.

The escape was apparently aided by a man visiting the prison, officials said.

The FBI described Miss Murphy as a "fringe member" of the Manson clan and a longtime roommate of Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a Manson gang member who was convicted of attempting to kill President Gerald Ford.

The other escapee, Dianne Mills, 35, was serving time for parole violation following an original conviction for bank robbery, authorities said.

Susan Murphy was convicted of threats against executives who, she had claimed in her letters, were "menacing" the environment. Her former roommate "Squeaky" Fromme had also spoken out against those she said were polluting and another friend of Miss Fromme, Sandra Good, had issued a so-called "death list" of people for alleged crimes against the environment.

(AP)

French N-plant for Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO. — Brazil on Friday concluded a deal with a French firm for the construction of a uranium treatment plant to produce fuel for its future atomic power stations.

The contract, for a plant to go into operation by 1979, follows a controversial Brazilian deal for West German nuclear-reactor technology reached last year.

No figure was given for the cost of the plant itself, but the total investment in the development of a uranium mine at Pocos de Caldas in Eastern Brazil and in the plant is estimated at \$30m.

Brazil has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and agreement with West Germany — which will enable it to build five plants a year by 1990 — has come under strong criticism from the U.S. (Reuters)

Turkish oil ship to sail again

ISTANBUL. — The Turkish seismic research ship Sismik 1 returned to the port of Izmir yesterday, but a Turkish minister said it would resume its controversial oil probe of the Aegean seabed next week.

The probe has locked Athens and Ankara in a bitter dispute over Greek sovereignty of the waters of the sea, bringing in the UN Security Council and U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to mediate.

Greece claims the seabed around the sea's main islands, all but two of which are Greek, while Turkey claims the seabed is an extension of its mainland.

Minister of Natural Resources Selahattin Kiliç, on hand to greet the ship, told reporters it would return to the coastal seabed Thursday in what was expected to be a final survey. (UPI)

WORLD SCENE

SASSON JAC

'Non-aligned' cacophony

THE SO-CALLED non-aligned countries meet today for their fifth summit — with the definition of what "non-aligned" means still in doubt 15 years after the first such parley, in Belgrade.

At the time, representatives of 25 nations gathered to tell the world they were neutral in the sense of being independent in world politics. They said their aim would be "the pursuit of peace not through alignment with any major power or groups of powers, but through an independent approach to each issue."

Meanwhile, from Belgrade in 1961, to Cairo (47 nations) in 1964, to Lusaka (54 nations) in 1970, to Algiers (76 nations) in 1973, and now to Colombo (85 nations), the non-aligned movement has gathered momentum until today it represents a population of 1,300 millions.

In the course of this process, these nations discovered to their undisguised glee that they had become a voting juggernaut in international forums, able to flout with impunity their past colonial masters. They have played this kind of numbers game regardless of any moral issues involved — blending it with a cacophony of assorted glib phrases such as the "struggle against imperialism and Zionism," as well as against "neo-colonialism" and "racism."

No forum in the world today is not now characterized by this "automatic majority" of the Third World, backed up with the wholehearted support of Communist and Arab states.

The policy has worked. The "developing" countries have loudly proclaimed that the rich nations have a moral commitment to re-order world commodity markets in their favor. And the extent of the bias in favor of these countries can be seen today in the international economic system.

FOR EXAMPLE, the International Monetary Fund has become an institution more and more occupied with the economic problems of the Third World. The World Bank has increased its capital to underwrite loans to the developing nations. GATT's trade-liberalizing talks in Geneva have agreed on concessions to developing countries.

There is nothing wrong with such a policy — providing it benefits in great part those who lead a wretched, or at best a lean existence compared to that in the affluent countries. However most of the Third World countries are dictatorships — many of them run by megalomaniacal tyrants of the ilk of Gaddafi of Libya and Amin of Uganda.

These dictators speak much of land reform and redistribution of wealth, but most of the money and land remain with the old owners, with a generous slice finding its way into the pockets of those in power. They blast the practices of the rich West and the mistreatment thereof, but their former colonial overlords — but their own people in most cases do not exactly lead a liberated existence.

But the fact cannot be ignored that while these Third World nations are lavish in public denunciations of the West, they have no hesitation in seeking its aid more privately.

BACK TO COLOMBO: the summit's total expenditure is expected to top \$60m., including an expensive renovation of Colombo. The Sri Lanka leaders apparently deem this huge expense for their poor nation worthwhile, for the few days of worldwide publicity it is providing.

Sri Lanka leaders even claim that half the money spent will comprise development projects of lasting benefit. In addition, there have been handsome contributions by such countries as India, Cuba, and the oil-rich Arab countries. An entire fleet of Peugeot cars costing nearly \$6m. has been imported for the use of delegates, and the Sri Lanka officials are at pains to point out that these cars will remain as a donation to the country. Special foods and wines have been imported to suit the expensive tastes newly acquired by Third World leaders in the "decadent" West they are so quick to vilify.

With all the excitement about these arrangements, few details have been published about the actual agenda. A conference brochure says: "Non-alignment has today become the broadest base for the creation of new international political and economic relations... its consequent action-oriented decisions

have become a widely-accepted print to found a just international economic order.... the observed interpreted this to mean the Colombo conference will be the in a series of international in which the Third World would transfer of wealth and nology from developed nations was done at the UNCTAD-IV conference in N.

IT IS KNOWN that the summit will review the international political situation and the non-alignment with special reference to South Africa, Rhodesia, the die East and Latin America. Also look at the Indian Ocean peace zone, and at the international implications of détente and armament. The last summit, in had been meant to discuss matters in depth, but it got downgraded to an exercise of political politics. It may yet happen.

An interesting subject will project to counter the W dominated international news by setting up a "non-align agency." News of this was gently by Mohammed Yunus, Premier Yuvraj who oversees draconian press-censorship is, accompanied his announcement a vicious tirade against news media — sufficient in of how "non-aligned" the agency will be.

The facade of togetherness lombo of course hides the African against African, against Arab, Chinese against Asians — the list is long; however, is certain to at this vast concourse of 5 legates and 600 journalists denunciations of South Africa, Rhodesia; condemnation of with sympathy displayed for Palestinians; blasts at the CIA West — and of course a m of resolutions, about which body knows that no one will thing constructive. But the show must go on. Non-aligned club founded in Tito of Yugoslavia, Nehru Nasser of Egypt, Sukarno nesia and Solomon Bandars Ceylon must have its grand Thursday.



John Skinner, 22 (second from left) of East London, South Africa, being congratulated on Saturday by the competition after setting a new world record for the men's 100-metre freestyle swimming with a time of 49.44 seconds. Skinner's time, set at the American Athletic Union Outdoor National Championships in Philadelphia, was more than half a second better than the world mark of 49.99 seconds set by American Jim Montgomery during the Montreal Olympics. (AP radiophoto)

Peking quake-alert lifted, but Canton gets warning

PEKING. — Chinese experts yesterday lifted the earthquake alert enforced in Peking for 16 days. "There will be no strong earthquake in the near future," a Foreign Ministry spokesman explained. But earthquake alarms, similar to air raid sirens, were tested yesterday in the southern city of Canton, travelers from the city said. Authorities there had warned that a major earthquake is expected to hit southern China in a few days, they said.

The six million people of Peking have been camping out in the streets of the capital since July 30 — two days after the big earthquake which devastated part of Hoped Province and shook the capital.

On Peking streets yesterday there was no immediate reaction to the lifting of the alert. Most people had already settled down for the night when the announcement came.

Makeshift tents and shacks still abounded in the city's streets and parks.

But in the last few days some people have returned to their apartments and courtyards, and signs of life have returned to the lower floors of some residential blocks.

The end of the Peking alert will be most welcome to foreign ambassadors and missions here. Most diplomatic dependants had been evacuated to Hong Kong or Tokyo.

A spokesman said the situation around Tanghai, the city of 1.5 million near Peking that was devastated by the July 28 quake, had eased. But he added that there was still the possibility of a further shock there.

"The general tendency is that after-shock activities are diminishing but there will be 'ups and downs' in the process and there may be a fairly strong after-shock," he said. (Reuters, AP)

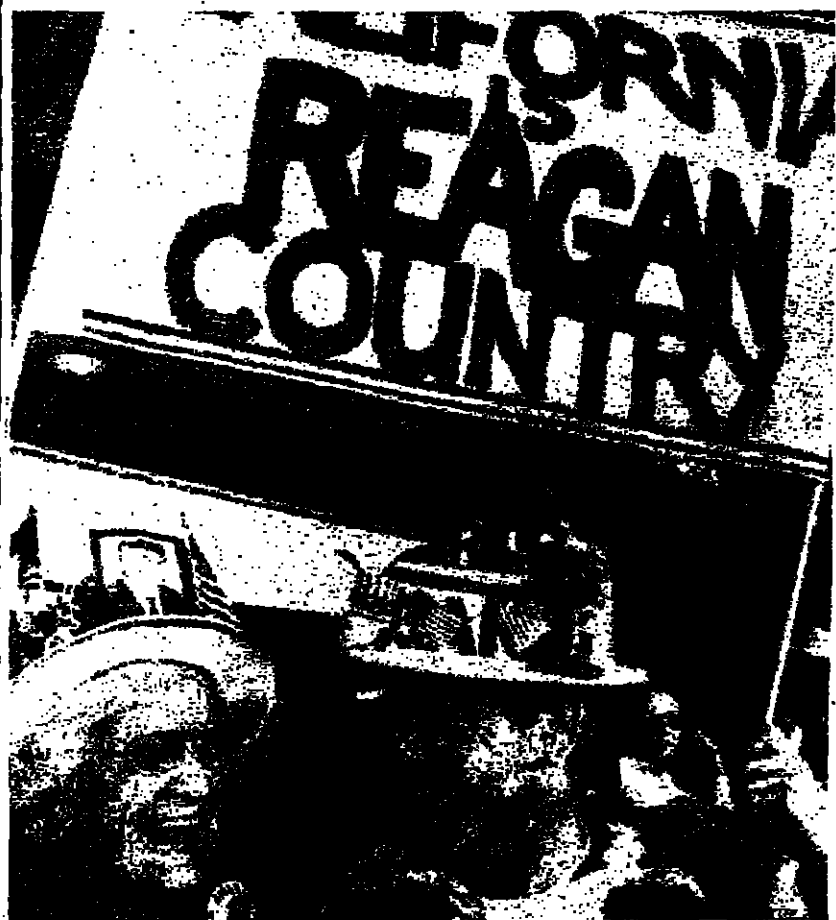
Thousands flee Caribbean volcano

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe. — More than 30,000 residents of this Caribbean island were ordered to leave their homes on Saturday as the La Soufriere volcano trembled and spewed forth ashes and steam.

The administrator of the French island ordered the evacuation of Basse Terre, Guadeloupe's second-largest town. Police patrolled the town's abandoned streets to prevent looting as steam and ashes belched from a huge crack 500 metres below the cone of the volcano.

A local seismologist said the situation was more dangerous now than when the crack first opened about six weeks ago. When La Soufriere — French for sulphur mine — began acting up early in July thousands of persons fled from their homes to escape the foul-smelling gases, steam, mud and showers of ash.

(AP)



Two California delegates display their choice as Republicans assemble in Kansas City to nominate a candidate for President. (UPI telephoto)

IRA: The w in Ulster must go

BELFAST. — The Provisional of the Irish Republican brushing aside a peace deation by 15,000 Catholics, fanatics alike, said yesterday the war would go on in Ireland.

A statement from the Provisional promising continued violence came as Belfast quietest 12-hour period since an explosion left a hole in an urban road and a man wounded in his right knee. Other incidents were reported, police said.

"We totally rule out ability of a peace initiative," IRA said. Referring to said "we showed last we had the power to demand of entire areas of and hold them against army."

The statement "deeply the death of the three children, killed last week driven by a Provisional, which sparked the peace 15,000 people at the scene tragedy. (Cauldron of violence —

GOP—COMING HOME TO DIE?

By ROBERT H. REID
NEW YORK. As Republicans gather in Kansas City today to begin nominating a candidate for president, many observers are wondering whether the party will survive the election as a viable force in American politics.

A national television commentator, noting that the party was holding its convention in the Midwest where it was born a century ago, wondered whether it was coming home to die. The Republicans have held the White House for 16 of the last 24 years, but have steadily lost strength among the youth, in Congress and in state governments throughout the country.

"The New York Times," in an

editorial on Sunday, said there were signs that the Republican Party may soon be faced with the problem of sheer survival as a credible party.

According to national polls, only about 20 per cent of U.S. voters consider themselves Republicans, compared with more than 40 per cent who call themselves Democrats. A half century ago, the Republicans commanded the allegiance of about 40 per cent of the voters. Many voters who helped elect Republicans Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon to the presidency remained registered Democrats and supported Democratic candidates in state and local elections.

Of the 100 U.S. Senators, only 38

are Republicans, while the party holds 145 of the 495 seats in the House of Representatives.

And of the 50 U.S. states, only 13 have Republican governors, and many of these are dominated by Democratically-controlled state legislatures.

The outlook for the November elections is also gloomy. Both the Harris and Gallup polls indicate Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter would win handily against either Ford or Reagan. The latest Gallup poll shows a Carter leading Ford by 62 per cent to 29 per cent.

One poll also indicated that nearly a third of the Republicans may stay home on election day if their

favourite fails to win nomination this week.

Still, Ford and other R leaders argue that a poll survey for the party is pointing out that the party's devastating defeats in the 1964.

They also note that some ists were predicting the the Democratic Party foil, 1972 presidential election, President Nixon, Senator George McGovern. "It's pretty vigorous ew its divided," Ford said in view with "Time" mag, think the divisions can b

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Hays withdraws re-election bid

EAST LIVERPOOL, Ohio. — Representative Wayne L. Hays, whose relationship with Elizabeth Ray sparked a congressional payroll-sex scandal in Washington earlier this year, withdrew on Friday as a candidate for re-election.

Hays, 65, submitted his resignation as a candidate to the Colum-

biana County Board of Elections here. The resignation means the Democratic congressman will leave office when his term expires in January.

Earlier, Hays had said he might drop out if the fact such a move might wipe out Miss Ray's chances for more publicity. (AP)

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Partition for Lebanon?

THE FALL of Tel el-Zaatar, a one-time Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Beirut, long ago turned into a PLO fortress, may have given real impetus to moves for the partitioning of Lebanon into separate Christian and Moslem states, or at least cantons.

If partition, in whatever guise, were to follow the PLO's defeat, it would only be the latest paradox in a war shot through with paradoxes. For the original avowed purpose of the assault launched sixteen months ago by the Palestinian-leftist alliance against the Christians was precisely to save Lebanon's unity from the sectional and religious divisions which were supposedly splitting it asunder. The practical effect of the attackers' victory would, of course, have been to make the Moslem leftists the wholly dominant element in a wholly reshaped Lebanon, with the PLO as an independent sovereign power within the country.

The Christian response to that challenge included the warning that a territorial partitioning of Lebanon might be the only result if the traditional rights of the respective established communities were to be completely overturned. In the flush of their first military successes, Junblatt and Arafat made light of the threat, except to put forward the absurd charge that it reflected a Zionist-imperialist plot to rob Lebanon of its independence.

The Syrians, however, appeared to take the threat seriously. In any case, when they began to stage their infiltration, first hesitant and then blatant, into Lebanon earlier this year, they gave their aim as being dual: to thwart a wholesale takeover of the country by the PLO-leftist alliance, and to prevent Lebanon from being partitioned.

The success of the Syrians in achieving their first aim may, paradoxically, lead to the failure of the second. The leaders of the alliance did not see the writing on the wall with the entry of the Syrians, and would not accept terms that fell short of the total surrender of their Christian opponents. Successive cease-fires were violated, and the Damascus agreement, even, was disregarded. Tel el-Zaatar, though doomed from the start, was made into a symbol of the PLO's intransigence and obduracy.

Now that this terrorist enclave has been eliminated, it should not come as a surprise that Christian leaders are beginning to talk openly of Lebanon's partition as the only long-range solution. Thus the Phalangist leader Pierre Gemayyel has already declared that the country's partition is now "a reality", although he is prepared to consider a federal structure under which Moslems and Christians would have their respective regions.

Quite possibly Gemayyel is bluffing. To be effective, outright partition would require the transfer of numerous Christian villages from the Moslem areas, which would be hard and unpalatable. A shift of Moslem villages would similarly be necessary; and, moreover, the moderate Moslem leaders, who are the Christians' natural allies, are not likely to view favourably an arrangement which leaves their own territories under the control of the PLO and the leftists.

Lastly it is difficult to see the Syrians agreeing to any proposal that goes beyond the mildest regional autonomy in a unified Lebanon — subject to their power, of course. But Gemayyel and his colleagues, bargaining as they now can from a position of strength, may be expected to play the partition card for all it is worth to attain their political goals.

ISRAEL PRESS

DAVAT (Histadrut) comments on the demands of the members of Israel's nursing profession for higher pay and better conditions. The demands are widely supported by the public, the paper says, but the problem is that under the prevailing negotiating system, a positive response to the nurses' demands will lead to a chain reaction from members of associated professions. The paper says the solution lies in making a distinction between hospital nurses, who work shifts, Saturdays and holidays, and other nurses. It will then be possible to meet the justified demands of the former.

HATZOFER (National Religious Party) notes that yesterday was the 47th anniversary of the massacre of the Jewish community in Hebron. The paper wonders why the Government has not yet seen fit to restore the original Jewish quarter in that city. It goes on to praise the settlers in Kiryat Arba, the new Jewish

quarter in the city, who are "waging a battle for their settlement in the face of a hostile attitude on the part of the concession-prone, anti-religious left, aided and abetted by a housing minister who invests no little energy in casting aspersions on the settlement and in obstructing its development."

AL HANISHMAN (Mapam) notes that "Libya, under the rule of a megalomaniac, is now the world centre of terrorist activity. The majority of terrorist actions recently have had Libyan encouragement and support. And in many cases have even been conceived in that country. The attack at Istanbul Airport is a case in point. Libya derives much of its power from petro-dollars, and with their aid, it has become a giant arsenal for weapons it cannot possibly need. Libya's continued membership in the UN is a disgrace to that organization, and the civilized world must defend itself against that country's destructive activities with every means at its disposal."

Cooling the trade union hotheads

PEOPLE AND POLITICS/Sraja Shapiro

IN THE NUMBER of workdays lost in the civil service through strikes, per thousand workers, Israel has the distinction of being in second place. Histadrut Secretary-General Yehoram Meshel attributes this to the "strait jacket of uniformity imposed by the Civil Service Commission" on employees of the government and other public bodies. "Professionally, a doctor has nothing in common with a filing clerk," Meshel says. "But the Civil Service Commission would strongly object to bringing the salary of a government-employed doctor in line with the pay prevailing in the profession and other public bodies. The filing clerk would go on strike — in order to maintain the time-honoured linkage of the salaries of various types of civil servants to one another."

This state of affairs is "absurd," Meshel declares.



Meshel

If labour relations in industry are more peaceful, it is not because of a highly developed sense of national responsibility among employees in the private sector.

"We know, certainly, that in many cases workers obtain better conditions than the maximum increase agreed upon between the Histadrut and the employers."

The Histadrut would object to such special arrangements only when the national interest was at stake.

"If salaried persons want to enjoy the fruits of their labour, they must show concern for the stability and prosperity of the national economy. Workers are the first to suffer in an ailing economy."

What can be done to moderate the hotheads on works committees?

To accomplish that, Meshel says, the Histadrut needs some constitutional changes built into its fabric. The draft has already been approved in principle by the Central Committee, but it must be endorsed by the Executive and ultimately by the Histadrut Council, in order to become operative.

"I'll do my best to speed up proceedings. The changes must be

effected soon. No longer than a year," Meshel promises.

THE MAIN FEATURE of the reform is that a strike would have to be supported by the majority of the employees of a plant to come into effect. No longer will a small pressure group be able to push forward with its demands, ignoring the interests of the rest of its colleagues.

"But if a clear majority of the workers does decide on a strike, the Histadrut should back it, even if the decision is not in accord with the better judgement of the central bodies," Meshel declares.

There is some opposition to the latter clause, he admits, some of his colleagues insisting the Histadrut must have the last word. His answer to them is that the Histadrut would not be fulfilling its mission if it did not accept the verdict of the people it is called to protect.

The idea that a general meeting of the workers should decide, by secret ballot, whether to strike or not is hardly new. Yosef Almog, then Minister of Labour, pleaded for this with the then secretary-general of the Histadrut, Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, but he failed.

The reasoning behind the proposal is that a voluntary organization democratically run is best controlled from within by a consensus of the largest possible body of individuals. For this principle to work, however, the reform must be accompanied by a thorough change in the status of the workers' committees, Mr. Meshel argues.

Meshel's revolutionary plan would have the employees of a plant choose one single committee to represent them for a period of three years. Guarantees would be built in to assure that no power group takes over the direction of affairs. Thus, provision would be made to ensure that a firm's clerical workers, mechanics, drivers, engineers, etc., are all given their rightful place on one committee.

THE REFORM goes deeper, however. The shop stewards would not handle financial matters. These would be entrusted into a different group of representatives, also chosen for a three-year period. Finally, a control committee would also be elected by the workers, with powers to supervise the dealings of both the shop stewards and the finance committee.

Such a system, Mr. Meshel feels, could bring responsible persons to the top, who would serve as a link between the Histadrut and the workers. The Histadrut, for its part, would give committee members the opportunity to acquire the education necessary for their post.

Full-fledged colleges will be established, following a curriculum worked out by Prof. Ezra Zohar. Grades will be issued. And a worker elected to one of the committees will have to produce his college certificate if he wants to lead his colleagues.

POSTSCRIPTS

SOME museum treasures can be enjoyed by blind as well as by sighted people, to judge from a scheme recently launched by London's Horniman Museum.

According to the Horniman's Senior Teacher, Mary Mellors, if blind people can handle the objects, they can learn about them in just the same way as people who can see. Lectures have been given to a group of blind people on a range of subjects — the North American Indians, Eskimos, Imperial China, masks, ethnic musical instruments and Australian Aborigines.

Each lecture is illustrated by objects passed around for the visitors to handle. They are especially selected for their texture and feel, so that by touching them the blind can discover the delicate artwork and craftsmanship that went into their making. Said Mary Mellors in a BBC programme, "We sit around the table and I put on it a selection of objects depending on what I'm talking about. If it's Australian Aborigines the table's covered with boomerangs, spears and shields. And as I talk about the life of the aborigines I pass the things around, and the blind visitors can feel what I'm talking about."

Perhaps the most popular lecture has been on musical instruments from all parts of the world. The strange sounds emanating from some of them were an obvious delight. Among the instruments were an African lyre made from lizard skin stretched over the shell of a gourd; a Sassa — a decorated box to which are affixed tongues made of split cane which are flicked with the thumb; a wooden xylophone, and a large number of wind instruments,

among them a Chinese bamboo flute, a shepherd's pipe and a conch shell which is blown and is very tactile for a blind person.

Perhaps the Rubin Academy, which has a museum of musical instruments, might follow the Horniman Museum's lead.

AMONG the many foreign dignitaries who have recently visited our region was the Catholic Bishop of Memphis, Tenn., Carroll T. Dozier, a long-time critic of the Vietnam war and an advocate of world peace. In an interview with "Common Sense," the Memphis "evening daily," he revealed much common sense.

"There will be no solution to the Arab-Israeli problem," Bishop Dozier declared, "until 'outside influences' remove themselves. There must be good faith negotiating on both sides without the interference or muddying of the waters by outside influences... Everybody's advice just complicates the matters. The Arabs and Jews have to sit down and hammer out a solution of their own." The Bishop wants Israel to live within secure borders and warns that the "Palestinian question will not go away. It is exploited now by whoever buys arms for terrorists."

Nothing what Israel has done to "turn a barren earth into a flowering garden," the Bishop adds. "Today you can look across Jerusalem and dream about what would come to be if that money used to buy arms was used to buy desalination and fertilizers." If not in the great capitals of the world, then at least in Memphis, Tenn. common sense exists.



Belfast—a city at war.

A cauldron of violence

The British public does not want another young soldier to die in or keep the Northern Irish apart. And it is on this expectation that the I will get fed up that the terrorists are working, writes MARK SEGAL.

ONE OF George Bernard Shaw's last plays was called "John Bull's Other Island," which dealt with the perennial Irish problem of the British. Decades later, it appears to be less solvable than before, as not a day passes without terrorist acts and killings taking place in Ireland.

People gaze in horror here as the TV screen shows the remains of a young British soldier shot in the stomach by a terrorist sniper. The sense of outrage mounts at the news that a Northern Irish MP and his family escaped serious injury at the hands of a mob of teenagers only because he had a revolver handy.

This attack was preceded by a rabble-rousing speech by Mrs. Maire Drumm, Acting President of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, when she threatened: "We shall pull Belfast down stone by stone." She added that that went for the rest of Britain, too.

Mrs. Drumm has a reputation for vituperation which is impressive even in Irish politics. She has been quoted as warning that British soldiers would soon be going home "in coffins," and her most famous quote was "I have no objection to throwing bottles at British soldiers. But it is not effective because it does not kill them."

The 56-year-old grandmother is now in jail under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for incitement to violence, as the British authorities try to keep events down to what is described as "an acceptable level of violence."

THERE IS MUCH in Ulster to remind one of Lebanon. Sectarian killings provide camouflage for gangsters' crimes. On my only visit to Belfast, I found a near hopeless, fatalistic approach. One finds more churches in Belfast than anywhere else in the English-speaking world. And the chasm of hatred between the Protestant majority and the Catholic minority burns with the blood of martyrs.

The high rate of unemployment means more hands for the weapons smuggled in from outside. The Catholics get theirs from the South with funds from the Irish Americans. Both sides have been in contact with Libya, with Gaddafi

happy to supply weapons to them all. The Protestants also get support from Scotland, where their ancestors originated. Indeed, the IRA propagandists talk openly of sending them back there, claiming that 400 years' residence in Ulster gives them no rights.

The rest of Britain is fed up with the Irish problem and wishes it would go away. The British public does not want another young soldier to die in order to keep the Irish apart. It is on this expectation — of the British becoming fed up and pulling out — that the terrorists are working. I was told that if the British Army withdrew, a general massacre would ensue immediately. My Irish friends blame the seven-year long indecisiveness of British governments, both Labour and Conservative, for the current situation.

BRITAIN AND IRELAND are striving to prevent the IRA from pushing them back into their old relations of the past. They want to defuse the centuries-old heritage of hatred. British tolerance does not allow any interference with the rights of Irish nationals arriving to live in the UK and benefit from the Welfare State.

The present troubles in Northern Ireland ignited agitation by Catholic extremists and a Protestant refusal to allow the minority a share in government. The ensuing violence brought London to cancel local autonomy and impose direct rule.

Frequent attempts to create a *modus vivendi* have proven fruitless. The moderates who seek compromise on both sides are overshadowed by the bigots. If the IRA feels it is losing ground among the Catholics, it terrorizes them, as it did when it sent its thugs against Gerry Fitt, MP of the Catholic social-democratic Labour Party. Optimism is rare in Ulster, and the assassin reigns. There is talk of an imposed solution: repatriation, with the Catholics ceded to the Republic. But that appears "hardly realistic right now."

Finally, an anecdote which puts

the Irish situation in a Belfast Jew is confronted with a Catholic or a Protestant? He replies: "Neither! I'm The gunman retorts: 'But you a Catholic Jew or a Jew?'"

IF THE GOVERNMENT had ed down seven years' argued, things would now control. The policy of Ireland Secretary Maryon in ruins. His bid to negotiate IRA secretly only struck extremists and drove moderates. Despite official it is widely believed in IRA promised the IRA pull-out of British troops, saw this as a sign of weakness the Protestants, and the closed ranks with their massing arms for the they are abandoned by W. It is widely believed that force Dublin to send troops the border. It might have blood bath follow a withdrawal. Yet one has southern Irish fear the violence the Protestants wreak on Dublin.

The latest outrage — the the British Ambassador brought home to Dublin Marxist IRA wants power more even than in Be Republic has enacted terrorist measures, yet a Sinn Féin to hold a terroristist groups, including the Japanese Red Army, Baader-Meinhof group.

In Ulster one hears talk Soviet Embassy in D. charges of Russian back terrorism. The spectre Cuba has been evoked. At Russians stand to gain perpetual blood-letting. dead, we see Irish-American Russian encouragement arms stirring the Irish where violence begets violence.



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